

5th February 1925]

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government have taken the control and regulation of water-supply of the channel, contrary to the terms of the agreement, if any ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government have imposed a special tax called kudimaramat tax of As. 9-4 per acre for fasli 1333 in addition to the tax of As. 3 per acre already existing ; if so, the reason for the same ;

(e) how many years have elapsed since any maramat of the channel has taken place ;

(f) whether it is a fact that there was no water-supply last year and the assessment for fasli 1333 was cancelled ;

(g) whether the tank in Nilayur which used to be filled with the water of the channel gets the same supply now ; and

(h) if not, whether the Government are considering the question of erecting a stone culvert with shutters at the head of the channel and connecting the channel with Sithanai ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Government have no information as to the agreement referred to.

(d) & (f) Government have no information.

(e) It is reported that estimates have been sanctioned for improvements and repairs and that the works are being completed.

(g) & (h) It is understood that there is trouble in getting supplies to the tail end of the channel. Improvements are under consideration.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With regard to clause (a) on the matter of agreement between Government and the ryots, will Government be pleased to call for the information ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Yes.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With regard to clause (e), may I know the nature of the improvements and repairs which are being effected ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ When we call for the information we shall place a list of the works and their nature on the table.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With regard to clauses (g) and (h) it is stated that there is trouble in getting supplies to the tail end of channels. May I know the nature of the trouble ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ That water does not go there ; that is all (laughter).”

*Drag line excavator in Godavari Western delta.*

\* 113 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) if the Government are aware that a drag line excavator was brought to work on the Yenamadurru drain in the Godavari Western delta two years ago and that it has not commenced to work ;

(b) the cost of the excavator and its maintenance charges for the last two years ;

(c) to what work its cost has been debited ; and

(d) whether it was found that it cannot be used to work the drain ?



[5th February 1925]

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The cost of the excavator amounted to Rs. 47,415. The cost was first debited to 'Stock' of the Public Works Stores division. When it was transferred to the work 'Improvements to Yenamadurru drain' the cost was debited to this work and when the excavator is returned to 'Stock' the work will be credited with the assessed current value of the plant. Figures regarding its maintenance charges for the last two years are not at present available.

(d) The excavator has been working, but the lifting limit is not sufficient for the highest lift in forming the bank. A gantry is therefore being fitted for use on these higher lifts.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With regard to the answer to clause (a) of this question, do I understand the Government to say that this drag excavator has not been working for the last two years?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"As will be noticed from (d), the excavator has been working but the lifting limit is not sufficient for the utmost work necessary and therefore what is called a gantry—that is, a kind of scaffolding which is placed there for the purpose of raising the machinery—is under construction."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am asking whether this excavating machine which costs more than Rs. 47,000 was taken to the place and has done no work whatever."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"That is not admitted. It is doing work."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Since what date it has begun to do work, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Clause (d) of the question is whether it was found that it cannot be used to work the drain, and the answer is that the excavator is working but that the lifting limit is not sufficient for the highest lift, etc. I am not an expert in these matters, but I am asking as a layman whether the working of that excavator has had any effect on the drain itself."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It has improved it, but not to the full extent possible."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"And when does the hon. the Law Member expect the fitting up of the gantry?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The gantry is being completed in the Public Works Workshop."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I wish that the gantry is finished as quickly as the hon. the Law Member finishes his answers. But I want to know whether it is fitted up in such a way as to enable the Government or the people to have the full benefit of the money spent upon this excavator?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"As I said, the gantry is under construction in the Public Works Workshop. As soon as it is ready, it will be fitted up, and the fullest benefit obtainable therefrom will presumably be got."